



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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1939 FISHERIES CATCH IN UNITED STATES AND ALASKA

Commercial catch of fish, shellfish, and whale products taken during 1939 in the United States and Alaska amounted to 4,443,328,000 pounds, valued at \$96,532,000, and gave employment to 131,325 fishermen.

This indicates an increase of about 189,883,000 pounds, or 4 percent, in volume, and \$2,985,000, or 3 percent, in value, as compared with 1938, according to annual survey figures released today by the Division of Fishery Industries, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, in Statistical Bulletin No. 1427.

The increase prevailed in all geographical sections of the country except in Alaska. In the Territory the catch showed a decrease of about 132,426,000 pounds in volume and \$762,000 in value, compared with 1938 when Alaska's catch totaled 798,823,000 pounds, worth \$12,220,000.

Of the total, 155 classifications of fish accounted for 3,979,404,000 pounds, valued at \$70,937,000; 41 classifications of shellfish took in 458,765,000 pounds, worth \$25,421,000; and whale products (whale meal, meat, sperm oil, and whale oil) 5,159,000 pounds, at \$174,000.

Of the 37 States and Alaska which contributed to the total catch, California, with 1,474,501,000 pounds of fishery products, valued at \$18,555,000, led in volume and value.

Massachusetts, with its \$14,243,000 catch, ranked second in value, but third in volume, with 521,097,000 pounds. Alaska was third in value with its \$11,458,000 catch, but second in volume, with 666,397,000 pounds.

Other important fish-producing States include: Virginia, 262,272,000 pounds, valued at \$4,604,000; North Carolina, 224,457,000 pounds, worth \$1,890,000; Florida, 198,260,000 pounds, at \$5,099,000; Washington, 155,812,000 pounds, at \$6,404,000; Louisiana, 146,939,000 pounds, at \$5,336,000; New Jersey, 125,345,000 pounds, at \$2,699,000; and Maine, 116,167,000 pounds, at \$2,695,000.

Most abundant of all species of fish taken commercially was the pilchard, or sardine, with a catch of 1,240,975,000 pounds, valued at \$6,856,000.

Among shellfish, shrimp led all other classifications with 150,250,000 pounds, valued at \$4,913,000.

Whale products, from Alaska and California, totaling 5,159,000 pounds, worth \$174,000, consisted of 1,030,000 pounds of meal, valued at \$18,000; 439,000 pounds of meat, at \$7,000; 996,000 pounds of sperm oil, at \$33,000; 2,538,000 pounds of whale oil, at \$114,000; and 156,000 pounds of other whale products, worth \$2,000. Since the weight of whales caught was not determined, the weight of manufactured products is shown. The bulletin does not include data on the whale fishery conducted by United States enterprise in the Southern hemisphere. There were 3,079,000 gallons of whale oil, valued at \$985,280 produced in this fishery during 1939.

In the 3,104 wholesale and manufacturing establishments which operated during 1939, a total of 92,795 persons were employed, and the value of the output of manufactured products amounted to \$171,608,485.